

# **MINUTES**

## **Meeting of the**

### **Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation Board of Directors**

**May 19, 2021**

#### **Proposed Motion – MassTech Board of Directors**

**The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation hereby adopts the Draft Minutes of the One Hundred Twenty Second Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation held on May 19, 2021 by Zoom video conference as the formal Minutes thereof.**

# MINUTES

## *ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SECOND MEETING*

of the

### BOARD of DIRECTORS

of the

## MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY PARK CORPORATION

May 19, 2021  
Zoom Videoconference

The One Hundred Twenty Second Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“MassTech”) was held on May 19, 2021, via Zoom video conference, pursuant to notice duly given to the Directors of the Board and publicly posted on the MassTech website with corresponding notice provided to the Office of the Secretary of State and the Executive Office for Administration and Finance.

The following MassTech Directors were present and participated: Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy (represented by Damon Cox of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development), Alexandra Drane, Christina Royal, Julie Chen, Pam Reeve, Rupa Cornell, Alok Tayi, Bogdan Vernescu, Joe Dorant, Michael Greeley, Paige Fetzer, Secretary of Administration and Finance Michael Heffernan (represented by Patrick Lynch of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance), and Carlos E. Santiago (represented by Tye Brady of Amazon Robotics).

The following Mass Tech Collaborative staff was present: Carolyn Kirk, Brianna Wehrs, Lisa Erlandson, Michael Baldino, Brian Noyes, Holly Lucas Murphy, Jennifer Saubermann, Kelly Kleanthous, Christine Nolan, Pat Larkin, Stephanie Helm, and Laurance Stuntz.

Mr. Jeffrey Thomas of Lever, Inc. was also present.

Mr. Cox called the meeting of the MassTech Board of Directors to order at 2:01 p.m. He then conducted attendance by roll call and observed the presence of a quorum.

**Agenda Item I      Approval of MassTech and MBI Joint Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Cox took a roll call vote of the MassTech Board of Directors.

Following a period of brief discussion, and upon motions duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously by a roll call vote:

**The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation hereby adopts the Draft Minutes of the One Hundred Twenty First Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation held on March 17, 2021 by Zoom video conference as a joint meeting with the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, as the formal Minutes thereof as to the sections of said minutes within the purview of the MassTech Board of Directors.**

**Agenda Item II      Report of the Mass Tech Collaborative Board Chair**

Mr. Cox provided the report of the Mass Tech Collaborative Board Chair, stating that as the Governor lifts restrictions on May 29, 2021 the Commonwealth is moving ever closer to normal, although some restrictions will stay in place for now. Mr. Cox indicated that the pandemic has had an impact on the Administration as a whole and at the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (“EOHED”) regarding executive agencies' footprints moving forward EOHED will have a shared workspace, consolidating departments as needed. Mr. Cox stated that the pandemic has made people realize that employees can work "on the go" and be just as productive as when in person. In this respect, Mr. Cox indicated that the innovation ecosystem has pivoted easily as this works well with their model, but traditional businesses are having a more difficult time. Mr. Cox then stated that at the last board meeting Mr. Larkin did an amazing presentation regarding what is happening with the Fintech Hub, and that these are exciting times for that sector. Mr. Cox commended Mr. Larkin's team for their work.

**Agenda Item III      Report of the Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Director**

Ms. Kirk indicated her report would consist of a brief overview of the MassTech divisions and departments, with the intent of prompting the Board Members to think about the upcoming budget review at the end of June where more information would be provided. Ms. Kirk stated that this may be the last Board Meeting held on Zoom as the legislation allowing such remote meetings expires in June, but we will see if the allowance of remote meetings is adopted permanently.

Ms. Kirk then provided an update on the Government Affairs and Legal Department, stating that she and Ms. Saubermann are actively working the government affairs side with the Legislature. Ms. Kirk indicated that although none of the MassTech funding items in the Governor's budget had made it into the House budget, after a great deal of advocacy, our most important line items were now in the Senate budget along with a few unexpected additions, and she felt positive about MassTech heading into

FY22. She also indicated that Ms. Saubermann had recently hired a much needed Government Affairs Associate who will work on touch points with the Legislature.

Regarding the Finance Department, Ms. Kirk stated that Ms. Erlandson and her team are currently working on the FY22 budget, due in late June. Ms. Kirk indicated that the budget review will follow the same format as previous years, with each division and department head presenting. She also stated that the IT team was currently supporting 59 remote offices, and were working towards transitioning back when the time comes.

Ms. Kirk then shared that the Human Resources Department under Ms. Lucas-Murphy conducted an anonymous survey of MassTech employees, and that Ms. Lucas-Murphy and Ms. Wehrs would be presenting the results to the Board.

Ms. Kirk stated that the Communications Department led by Mr. Noyes was extremely busy, supporting 5 divisions, EOHEd, the Governor's Office and the Lt. Governor's Office. Ms. Kirk indicated that Mr. Noyes was actively hiring an external affairs associate to highlight MassTech's statewide impact.

Moving on to the Massachusetts eHealth Institute (“MeHI”), Ms. Kirk said the division was currently organizing around the launch of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (“EDA”) SPRINT Challenge Grant, and more would be presented later.

With regard to the Mass Broadband Institute, Ms. Kirk stated they are still digesting guidelines for federal dollars for broadband and working with the Administration, but all indications are that MassTech needs to ramp up in this area.

Ms. Kirk then discussed the MassCyberCenter, stating that the Center's \$950,000 line item was included in the Senate FY22 budget proposal, plus an additional \$1.5 million earmark for a cyber range and security operations center, and we are exploring the feasibility of this earmark in coordination with EOHEd .

At the Center for Advanced Manufacturing, Ms. Nolan, the new Division Director, recently supported a successful Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative meeting led by Secretary Kennealy, and the Center is getting ready to respond to manufacturing opportunities as they arise.

And finally, at the Innovation Institute, Ms. Kirk shared that there would soon be some staffing changes, as she intends to bring on an Innovation Institute Deputy Director as of June 1, 2021. This will allow the Institute to build senior capacity on program side, and Ms. Kirk to utilize Mr. Larkin more fully in his other role as Deputy Director at Mass Tech.

After some brief discussion, Ms. Kirk turned the floor over to Mr. Stuntz, Director of MeHI to discuss the Lever Award for Massachusetts Digital Health COVID-19 Recovery Challenges.

**Agenda Item IV      Mass eHealth Institute – Lever Award for Massachusetts Digital Health COVID-19 Recovery Challenges (motion item)**

Mr. Stuntz explained that the Lever award item stems out of a challenge award application MeHI submitted last year, and introduced Lever Director Jeffrey Thomas, also present on the call. Mr. Stuntz stated that the EDA, a bureau within the Department of Commerce put out a call for a challenge to help regions across country recover from COVID-19. MeHI applied for, and was awarded, approximately \$680,000. MeHI was one of 44 winners out of 238 applications nationwide, and one of 5 highlighted in EDA’s press release. MeHI applied in partnership with Lever to run two Massachusetts Digital Health COVID-19 Recovery Challenges to accelerate digital health innovations and validate the selected innovations at Massachusetts Digital Health Sandboxes. Challenge #1 will focus on solutions for family caregivers that help caregivers facing new challenges caring for loved ones during the pandemic or that help caregivers return to work, and Challenge #2 will focus on solutions for healthcare providers particularly community health providers, that help provide better and safer care. Each Challenge, run by Lever, will be 12 months long and will have the same structure: Phase I: Outreach and Recruiting, Phase II: Acceleration, Phase III: Solution Validation and Investor Networking, with the overall project running May 2021 – December 2022. The Challenges are unique in that the prize is "tuition" to support the winners' projects at a Massachusetts Digital Health Sandbox. One winner will receive a \$100,000 Sandbox Project, three runners-up will receive \$50,000 Sandbox Projects. Mr. Thomas expressed Lever's excitement to be part of this endeavor, stating they had a great deal of experience in doing these sorts of challenges, and he viewed their role as preparing companies to make most of Sandbox resources. When asked how early stage he is hoping to get submissions, Mr. Thomas stated that he was expecting more mature submission but mostly pre-revenue companies that have something to be tested in the Sandboxes.

Following a period of brief discussion, and upon motions duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously and without abstention by a roll call vote:

**The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“Mass Tech Collaborative”), acting pursuant to the authority delegated under Chapter 40J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, does hereby authorize a grant award to Lever, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$182,880 for the COVID-19 Digital Health Recovery Challenges, as presented.**

**Funds will be awarded from the federal grant awarded to the MassTech Collaborative from the U.S. Economic Development Administration for the Scaling Pandemic Resilience through Innovation and Technology (SPRINT) Challenge. The grant award to Lever, Inc. is subject to the execution of a grant agreement in a form and with terms approved by MassTech Collaborative’s Executive Director.**

**Agenda Item V      Survey Results of Mass Tech Employees**

Ms. Kirk then moved on to discuss survey results of an anonymous survey conducted by the Human Resources Department. The results overall were very good, with a 68% response rate. Key points include: 85% of responding MassTech employees reported positive communication with their manager and ample support while working from home; 95% are very satisfied or satisfied with MassTech's response regarding safety; 100% reported their ideal working arrangement would be a hybrid working model upon return. Ms. Kirk said that the top concerns about returning to work are commute time, compliance with protocols, and others' vaccination status. She indicated that the team was continuing to meet and review information based around the changing guidelines, which as of May 29, 2021 would be none. Mr. Cox asked about productivity, and Ms. Wehrs said managers were seeing productivity routinely, with those employees who are productive in the office continuing to be productive remotely. When asked if there was concern over the 30% of employees who did not respond, Ms. Kirk said no, as we did not make the survey mandatory. Ms. Lucas-Murphy said it was intended more as a "how are you feeling" questionnaire, and she felt we got quality responses with the open ended questions. Ms. Lucas-Murphy also stated that the survey asked whether benefit changes during COVID met employees' needs, such as changes in amounts allowed for flexible spending and carry-over of unused amounts, as people were not able to use the funds during the pandemic. MassTech also expanded sick leave related to COVID for impacted employees. 90% of employees indicated that MassTech benefit plans met their needs during last year. Ms. Wehrs stated that the high positive response rate overall is a testament to Ms. Lucas-Murphy and strong communication by the management teams. There was some discussion around changes in work culture, the need to determine the right number of days for a hybrid model, the fact that MassTech will be following the Governor's guidance and not imposing new requirements, and differences between the MassTech Boston and Westborough offices regarding return.

There being no other business to discuss and upon motion duly made and seconded, the MassTech Board of Directors voted unanimously and without abstention by a roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST: (Secretary)

DATE:

Materials and Exhibits Used at this Meeting:

1. Draft Minutes for the March 17, 2021, joint MassTech and MBI Board of Directors Meeting
2. Approval Item / Presentation - COVID-19 Digital Health Recovery Challenges
3. Presentation- Survey Results of Mass Tech Employees